

Serial No. 10/612,087

Attorney Docket No. 24-007

REMARKS

Counsel for the applicants thanks the examiner for the helpful interview, which was conducted on June 11, 2008.

Claims 2, 4-7, 9, and 15-20, 22 and 23-30 are pending. Claims 24-30 are new. Claims 1, 3, 8, 10-14 and 21 have been canceled. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 2, 7, 9, 15, 19, and 22-23 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0053044, Moreno ("Moreno"). Claims 4-6, 16-18, and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moreno in view of alleged mere change in shape of component. The independent claims are amended, for example, "wherein said adhesive sheet comprises a base material and an adhesive layer, the adhesive layer being disposed between the base material and the release sheet so that the release sheet is releasably adherent to the adhesive layer of the adhesive sheet portions, wherein the base material and the adhesive layer are made of different materials" (claim 2). Support for the amendment is located in the application as filed, for example, FIG. 1, FIG. 2, FIG. 5. Claims 4, 7, 16, 17 and 20 are amended to recite that "said protective member ... is ... shaped to intrude between the adhesive sheet portions so as to partially overlap said adhesive sheet in a radial direction of a roll when said laminate sheet is wound longitudinally into thea roll" (claim 4). Support for this amendment is located for example page 5, lines 18-23.

Moreno fails to teach or suggest, for example, that "the release sheet is releasably adherent to the adhesive layer of the adhesive sheet portions" as recited in the amended independent claims. Because the release sheet is releasably adherent to the adhesive layer of the adhesive sheet portions, the base material and the adhesive layer are peeled off together from the

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release sheet. The adhesive-side surface of the release sheet has a release property. In Moreno, to the contrary, the adhesive layer is not peeled off from the backing layer because the primer layer increases the adhesion of the adhesive layer to the backing layer. Moreno's adhesive layer is provided on the first side of the backing layer, and a low adhesion backside (LAB) layer is provided on the second side of the backing layer (Moreno, claims 1, 12). This is the opposite of the claimed invention.

In addition, according to claims 4, 7, 16, 17 and 20, the protective member is shaped to intrude between the adhesive sheet portions so as to partially overlap said adhesive sheet in a radial direction of a roll when said laminate sheet is wound longitudinally into the roll." The examiner contends that Moreno's protective member (18) partially overlaps a side of the adhesive (20). The overlapping direction in Moreno is the planar direction of the tape. On the other hand, in the current claims, the partial overlap is in a radial direction. In the advisory action, the examiner suggests clearly raising this issue. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that the examiner carefully reconsider the grounds of rejection.

For at least these reasons, the combination of features recited in independent claims 2, 4, 7, 16, 17, 19 and 20, when interpreted as a whole, is submitted to patentably distinguish over the references of record. In addition, Moreno clearly fails to show other recited elements as well.

With respect to the rejected dependent claims, the applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable not only for the reasons given above and by virtue of their dependency from the independent claims, but also because of additional features they recite in combination.

Amended claims 15, 17 and 23 recite a feature that "said adhesive sheet portions have a planar form that is disc-ring shaped with a central hole-punch portion" and are believed to be

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patentable for this additional reason. Support for the amendment is located for example in FIG.

2. Moreno paragraph [0019] discloses that the adhesive segment can be “dots, blobs, and stripes” where the stripe “is a long narrow band” which can be annular. However, this fails to teach or suggest a “planar form that is ring shaped with a central hole-punch portion” adhesive sheet, which particularly suitable for use with an optical disc.

New claims 24-30 are added to recite “a protective portion provided in continuous contact and coextensive with the protective member on a side opposite from the long release sheet, wherein the protective member comprises the protective portion and a second adhesive sheet portion which is different from said plurality of adhesive sheet portions, said second adhesive sheet portion being a different layer than the protective portion.” The new claims recite features of the protective member, shown for example in FIG. 6, which is absent from the prior art references, and are believed to be allowable for this additional reason.

The applicants respectfully submit that, as described above, the cited art does not show or suggest the combination of features recited in the claims. The applicants do not concede that the cited art shows any of the elements recited in the claims. However, the applicants have provided specific examples of elements in the claims that are clearly not present in the cited art.

The applicants strongly emphasize that one reviewing the prosecution history should not interpret any of the examples applicants have described herein in connection with distinguishing over the cited art as limiting to those specific features in isolation. Rather, for the sake of simplicity, the applicants have provided examples of why the claims described above are distinguishable over the cited references.

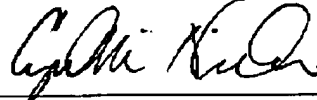
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In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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